

Laboratory Assessment

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One objective that I have as the State Training Coordinator for the NPHL is to identify the educational/training needs of laboratorians across Nebraska. To fulfill this objective, a laboratory assessment survey has been created and distributed to those laboratorians that recently attended the "Bioterrorism Preparedness Symposium" held in Grand Island, Norfolk, and Lincoln. The assessment will be distributed to the other laboratorians either in person or through the mail over the next couple of months.

This assessment will help personnel at the NPHL understand what laboratory needs exist in Nebraska and assess the means in which educational and training materials should be distributed. The majority of the training materials already supplied to laboratories have been bioterrorism oriented. Future plans include expanding the educational and training programs to offer materials to laboratorians on other subjects of personal importance. In addition, the assessment will be used to identify which training formats are preferred by laboratorians. These formats could include:

On-site training

Wet workshops at off-site locations

Online training via Internet with interactive learning

On-site materials/manuals/posters

Correspondence courses

Teleconference courses

Videotaped lectures for self-study

Lectures on CD-ROM for self-study

The NPHL plans to provide a majority of the training materials through Internet or videoconferencing. With the large geographical area of Nebraska, we believe that taking advantage of this technology is the best way to reach all laboratorians. Additionally, the NPHL website (www.nphl.org), will become a repository for both current topics and older training materials.